SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 33

Commending the West Springfield High School debate team.

Agreed to by the Senate, February 28, 2009

WHEREAS, the West Springfield High School debate team is commended for its outstanding performance at the Virginia State Championship Tournament; and

WHEREAS, the National Forensic League is the National Honor Society for Speech and Debate and the Virginia State Championship Tournament qualifies students to attend the Nationals in Birmingham, Alabama, in June; and

WHEREAS, the West Springfield High School students participated in various categories, including Student Congress, Public Forum Debate, Original Oratory, Foreign Extemporaneous Speaking, Duo Interpretation, Original Oratory and Dramatic Interpretation, and Humorous Interpretation; and

WHEREAS, the West Springfield High School students took home many awards and honors in the tournament, reflecting their hard work and dedication; and

WHEREAS, the West Springfield High School team received third place for the George Mason University Excellence in Forensics Award; Christine Ching placed second in the state with an Overall Individual Sweepstakes Award and Erik Bakke placed third in the state with an Overall Individual Sweepstakes Award; and

WHEREAS, Erik Bakke, who took first place in the State House of Representatives and third place for original oratory, and Christine Ching, who took first place in the State Senate and third place in foreign extemporaneous speaking, will advance to the National Forensic League Speech Tournament; and

WHEREAS, the team of Edmund Brown and Gabriel Manion took first place in the state for public forum debate and will represent West Springfield High School at the National Forensic League Speech Tournament; and

WHEREAS, other winners from West Springfield High School include Justin Strickland, who advanced to the semifinal rounds in original oratory and dramatic interpretation, and Jessica Friedel, who advanced to the semifinal rounds in humorous interpretation, while the team of Jessica Friedel and Margaret Fuller placed fifth in the state in duo interpretation; and

WHEREAS, the West Springfield High School debate team's success is due to the efforts and preparation of the team members; the guidance of Patricia Hagy, the team's coach; and the support of the students, faculty, and administration of West Springfield High School; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate of Virginia, That the West Springfield High School debate team be commended on its outstanding performance at the Virginia State Championship Tournament; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Patricia Hagy, the coach for the West Springfield High School debate team, as an expression of the Senate's respect for the team's accomplishment and best wishes in its future endeavors.